

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a fiber molded article having a mating face with an edge, the mating face being adapted to be joined with a mating face of another fiber molded article, ~~the method including the steps of~~ comprising:

forming a fiber deposit layer containing a fiber material by papermaking processing, and pressing the fiber deposit layer,

wherein:

the fiber deposit layer has a thick-walled part at or near the edge, [[and]]

the thick-walled part is pressed in the step of pressing, and

the fiber deposit layer is formed in a papermaking mold having a recess, wherein the depth of the recess is 1 to 20mm.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 1, wherein the fiber deposit layer is a wet fiber deposit layer obtained by papermaking processing using slurry containing the fiber material, and the edge is formed where the mating face of the fiber molded article meets the mating face of said another fiber molded article.

3. (Original) The method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the step of pressing is carried out using a heated forming mold.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 3, wherein a forming portion of the forming mold is coated with a fluororesin.

5. (Cancelled)

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein when the fiber deposit layer is removed from ~~[[a]]~~ the papermaking mold, the outer peripheral portion of an overhang of the fiber deposit layer providing the mating face is released from the papermaking mold to bend the basal part of the overhang.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method of producing a fiber molded article having a mating face with an edge, the mating face being adapted to be joined with a mating member, ~~the method including the steps of comprising:~~

forming a fiber deposit layer containing a fiber material by papermaking processing, and pressing the fiber deposit layer,

wherein:

the step of forming the fiber deposit layer by papermaking processing comprises providing a papermaking mold having a papermaking portion corresponding to a shape of the fiber deposit layer, wherein the papermaking mold has a parting face and a base part corresponding to an upper surface of a flange of the fiber deposit layer; forming a recess having a depth of 1 to 20 mm by providing the base part at a position lower than that of the parting face; and, bending a basal part of the flange to form a thick-walled part at or near the edge of the fiber deposit layer when the fiber deposit layer is released from the papermaking mold, and

~~the fiber deposit layer has a thick-walled part at or near the edge, and~~

the thick-walled part is pressed in the step of pressing.

8. (Previously Presented) A papermaking mold used in the method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 1, which forms the thick-walled part at where two faces of the fiber deposit layer meet.

9. (Previously Presented) A papermaking mold used in the method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 1, having, in a papermaking portion thereof on which the fiber deposit layer is to be formed, a recess for forming the thick-walled part, the recess being formed by providing a base part of the papermaking portion at a position lower than a parting face of the papermaking mold.

10. (Previously Presented) A papermaking mold used in the method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 1, having, on a papermaking portion thereof on which the fiber deposit layer is to be formed, a groove for forming the thick-walled part.

11. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for carrying out the method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 6, comprising a papermaking mold for forming the fiber deposit layer and a receiving mold for receiving the fiber deposit layer from the papermaking mold, the papermaking mold or the receiving mold having thick-walled part-forming means for bending the basal part of the overhang to make the thick-walled part.

12. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for producing a fiber molded article according to claim 11, wherein the thick-walled part-forming means comprises (1) separation means for

separating the outer peripheral portion of the overhang from the papermaking mold when the papermaking mold and the receiving mold are joined together and (2) a space-forming portion for providing a space between the papermaking mold and the receiving mold in which the basal part is bent.

13. (Withdrawn) A fiber molded precursor used in the production of a fiber molded article having a mating face with an edge, the mating face being adapted to be joined with a mating fiber molded article or a mating member, comprising a wet fiber deposit layer formed from a slurry containing a fiber material by papermaking processing and having a thick-walled part formed by partly bending the fiber deposit layer along or near the edge of the fiber deposit layer corresponding to the edge of the fiber molded article.

14. (Withdrawn) A fiber molded article obtained by forming a fiber deposit layer containing a fiber material by papermaking processing and pressing the fiber deposit layer, the fiber molded article having a sharp edge where two faces thereof meet.

15. (Withdrawn) The fiber molded article according to claim 14, wherein the edge has a curvature radius of 1 mm or smaller.

16. (Withdrawn) A fiber molded article having a mating face with a sharp edge, the mating face being adapted to closing against another fiber molded article to form a cavity.

17. (Withdrawn) The fiber molded article according to claim 16, the edge of the mating face has a curvature radius of 1 mm or smaller.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) The method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 1, wherein the edge of the fiber molded article is a sharp edge.
20. (New) The method of producing a fiber molded article according to claim 1, wherein the papermaking mold has a papermaking portion corresponding to a shape of the fiber deposit layer, a parting face and a base part corresponding to an upper surface of a flange of the fiber deposit layer, and wherein a basal part of the flange is bent to form a thick-walled part at or near the edge of the fiber deposit layer when the fiber deposit layer is released from the papermaking mold, and wherein the recess is formed by providing the base part at a position lower than that of the parting face.